

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 50-101 are now pending, claims 1-49 having previously been canceled. Here, claims 50-52, 57-61, 63, and 70-75 have been amended to address issues raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action.

These amendments include removal of the cascaded alternative limitations from claims 50 and 60. The removed limitations are now in new claims 76 and 86, respectively. In addition, new claims 77-85 and 87-101 have been added to provide the features of claims 51-59 and 61-75, respectively, in combination with the features now in new claims 76 and 86.

In addition, claims 57-59, 70, and 72-75 have been amended to comply with the substance of the several suggestions by the Examiner relative to these claims in the Office Action. Also, all of claims 50-75 have been amended to conform to the changes in their respective parent claims as necessary, or to improve the form of the claims for purposes of examination. None of the changes narrow the scope of the claims for statutory purposes related to patentability.

It is believed that all the issues raised by the Examiner have been addressed herein. If any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone. In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by Facsimile to (571) 273-8300 addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Signature

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January 6, 2006  
Date of Signature

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